THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Govenrment of Orissa has intimated that there is no proposal to set up a 250 MW power plant in the eastern coastal area of Orissa.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

Transfer of Unviable central projects to private sector

1917. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to transfer Central projects experiencing huge time and cost overruns to private sector in major economic areas including power, coal, fertilizers, heavy industry, railways, civil aviation and atomic Energy;

(b) if so, the broad features of the proposal;

(c) whether Government have identified the unviable projects proposed to be handed over to the private sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) In February 1996, the Government accepted, in principle, the suggestions of the Group of Ministers on specific measures to cut delays in the implementation of central sector projects. One of the suggestions relates to weeding out/transferring to Joint/Private sector of the projects which are making slow progress in various sectors.

(b) Broad features of the proposal are that the projects which would be considered for weeding out/transfer are those on which expenditure incurred is 5% or less even after 60% of the gestation is over. List of projects would be drawn up keeping in view the resource crunch and other relevent factors such as the strategic importance of the project, constraints in land acquisition, change in government policies/market conditions, backward and forward linkage, etc.

(c) and (d) No project has been identified so far under the decision of February, 1996.

Central Directive to DESU for Generation of Electricity

1918. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government directed DESU in April this year to step up its own generation of electricity and clear outstanding dues to central utilities;

(b) if so, whether DESU contemplated any steps in view of the directions by the Central Government;

(c) the total mount outstanding with DESU to central utilities; and

(d) the efforts made by the Central Government to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) (b) and (d) DESU was advised to maximise its generation as well as check pilferage of energy, adopt demand management measures as well as energy conservation measures, reduce T&D losses, make better arrangements for attending to local break downs etc. DESU was also advised from time to time to improve its financial management and also clear its outstanding dues to Central Power Undertakings, particularly for current purchases.

DESU has prepared an Action Plan (1995—2000 A.D.) for fiscal and functional improvements, which envisages structural re-organisation and revamping of various wings of DESU so as to turn it into a more efficient body and it inter-alia includes new capacity addition